

CIRCULAR.

TO THE FRIENDS OF FREEDOM:

At a Mass Meeting held at Cleveland on the 24th day of May, 1859, on which occasion not less than Six Thousand men were assembled to consult together upon the recent outrages committed by the Federal Officers upon the citizens of Lorain County, the following resolution was passed:

"That the recent proceedings of the Federal Court for this District, in producing the conviction of persons indicted under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law by the employment of the most disgraceful means, is without parallel even in the modern history of despotism; that the victims of that court, now incarcerated in yonder prison, convicted or accused of 'humanity to man,' are entitled to, and we hereby tender to them, our cordial sympathy."

In order to make that sympathy effectual, it was recommended that a fund be raised, to be called the Fund of Liberty, to be collected under the direction of the several County Republican Central Committees of the Reserve, and in order to insure a faithful performance of this important duty, the undersigned are appointed by the Convention as Commissioners of the Liberty Fund, who were to receive said Fund, disburse it for the objects named, and account therefor by periodical publication, until the duties were performed;—applying any surplus to the advancement of the cause of Freedom.

We therefore constitute SAMUEL PLUMB, Esq., of Oberlin, Lorain Co., as Agent for the purpose of visiting different Counties in the State, to co-operate with the several County Committees, in collecting said fund, and receiving and receipting for the same; and also to receive contributions for the like purpose from Associations or friends of freedom throughout the land.

WILLIAM FULLER,
PHILEMON BLISS,
REUBEN HITCHCOCK.

Cleveland, June 16, 1859.

P. S. All communications of enquiry, or donations, may be directed to S. PLUMB, Esq., Oberlin, Lorain Co., Ohio.

At the Mass Meeting convened at Cleveland, May 24, 1859, to consider the outrage committed upon the citizens of Lorain County by the Federal Judiciary, and for adopting such measures as were deemed necessary to sustain and relieve the victims of these outrages now confined in the Jail of Cuyahoga County, WILLIAM FULLER, Esq., of Cleveland, Hon. PHILEMON BLISS, of Elyria, and Hon. REUBEN HITCHCOCK, of Painesville, were appointed Commissioners to co-operate with the undersigned in collecting funds and disbursing the same for the objects named, applying any surplus to the cause of Freedom.

In furtherance of the above plan, we, the Republican Central Committee, of.....County, hereby constitute and appoint.....of.....to collect donations in said.....and vicinity, the same to be forwarded, when collected, to the order of SAMUEL PLUMB, Esq., who is duly authorized to receive the same.

} Central Committee.

WHY DO THESE FATHERS AND HUSBANDS STAY IN JAIL ?

1. Their position is that the Fugitive Slave Law, under which they have been indicted and are imprisoned, is in itself unjust, and unconstitutional : and that the Court, acting under it, can have no just or legal claim upon them :—least of all the right to confine them, without trial, as felons, when they had appeared before it in fulfilment of its own requisitions.

2. The interests involved are not those of a personal character merely, as between them and the Federal Government, but pre-eminently, and nakedly, such as to involve the welfare and rights of the whole country.

3. Thus situated, these PERSECUTED MEN stand as the representatives of FREEDOM, in the issue now made by the Slave Power, through the Federal Court, and they are not at liberty, under such responsibilities, to call in as their counselors personal feeling or friendship, or any considerations lower than truth, patriotism and duty. As *true men*, they cannot falter, or stoop to “give bail,” in obedience to the infamous slave law, in any sense or degree whatever.

4. These encroachments of Federal authority, in ignoring and even defying State rights, demand the immediate and unflinching resistance of the freemen of the land. To meet them NOW, is to avoid the further sacrifices of the rights of the Free States, and deeper degradations of the country. The sooner this tyranny is boldly met, the less of treasure and blood will it cost to vanquish it. Therefore let these men in jail be sustained in their position, and let not its appeal fall powerless upon the ear of American Citizens !